

REMARKS

Applicant submits this Amendment in response to the Office Action dated November 17, 2006, in which the Examiner (1) objected to the drawings, (2) objected to claims 4-13 as to form, and also rejected those claims for indefiniteness, but did not otherwise treat claims 4-13 according to the art, and (3) rejected claims 1-3 on the basis of prior art. Applicant will address these points below.

Turning first to the formal matter relating to the drawings, the Examiner's objection under 37 CFR §1.83(a) that the drawings do not show every feature of the invention recited in the claims, specifically, that they do not show the faceted sphere, cylinder, cube and pyramid shapes for the supports as recited in claim 3, has been rendered moot by applicant's cancellation of claim 3 hereinabove.

Turning next to the substantive portion of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 4-13, and also rejected those claims in parallel fashion under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness, because claim 4 depends from itself and claims 5-13 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 4. In response, applicant has amended claim 4 hereinabove so that it no longer depends from itself. Accordingly, claims 4-13 may now be examined according to the art, and such action is respectfully requested.

Turning finally to the rejections based upon prior art, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by a patent granted to Elliot, and the Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over various combinations of patents granted to each of Hollinger and Naxon, and two patents granted to Ancona. In response, applicant has canceled claims 1-3, without prejudice, and is presenting herewith new independent claim 14, which incorporates all of the limitations of claims 1 and 2, as well as one of the limitations that previously appeared in claim 4, namely, that the supports are substantially spherical in shape. Dependent claim 4 has been amended to delete that limitation (while retaining the limitation that those spherically-shaped supports are substantially solid), and claim 4 has also been amended so that it depends from new independent claim 14.

It is submitted that new independent claim 14 recites patentable subject matter, and that it is distinguishable over the prior art cited and relied upon by the Examiner in the rejection of canceled claims 1-3. It is further submitted that dependent claims 4-13, which incorporate all of the limitations of new independent claim 14, also recite patentable subject matter and are distinguishable over that same prior art.

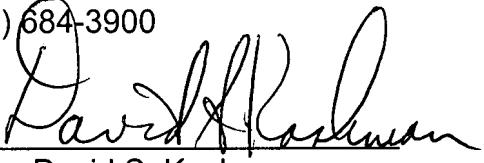
The Commissioner is requested to construe this paper as including a retroactive petition for a two-month extension of time in which to file a response to the outstanding Office Action, and accordingly, a check for the official fee of \$225.00, as prescribed

therefor by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(a)(3), as amended, in the case of a small entity, is submitted herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional extension fees which may be required, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1730.

Applicant has responded herein to each of the points raised by the Examiner in the Office Action, and applicant has amended the claims in an earnest effort to place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, further favorable action in connection with this patent application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if it will advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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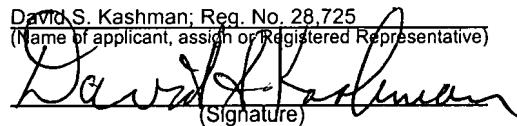
Dated: New York, New York
March 27, 2007

C E R T I F I C A T E O F M A I L I N G

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on:

Date of Deposit March 27, 2007

David S. Kashman; Reg. No. 28,725
(Name of applicant, assignee or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

March 27, 2007
(Date of Signature)